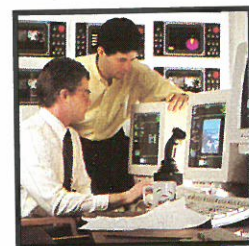


United Defense—experienced, capable and committed



The defense industry continues its consolidation and United Defense stands out as the premier systems integrator and manufacturer of ground combat systems. For more than half a century, we have provided innovative design, reliable engineering and high-quality products.

Although the United Defense name is new on the scene our roots are deeply embedded in defense. FMC and BMY, partners in United Defense, each have long and successful histories of producing products for American and Allied armed forces. Some are the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, the Mk 45 Naval Gun, the Paladin Self-Propelled Howitzer, the Mk 41 Vertical Launch System, the Armored Gun System and others pictured above.



A prime source of equipment and technology, United Defense is also demonstrating the capability to upgrade, overhaul, and convert older systems for new purposes and extended use. United Defense continues to provide cost effective engineering solutions and is leading the effort to "digitize" the battlefield.

United Defense is prepared to meet new challenges and has made a commitment to provide quality defense products and services now and into the future.



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Features

Louisiana Tankers Ready for the State-of-the-Art M1A2.....19

Dr. Philip Lett and Steve Czerniak of General Dynamics Land Systems recently visited the 1-156th Armor at the unit's armory in Shreveport, Louisiana, to discuss transitioning to the state-of-the-art M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank system. The new system has revolutionized tank warfare. Loaded with the latest technology, unit leaders believe their young soldiers will show that the "Nintendo generation" has come of age.

Presidential Campaign '96..... 22

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas writes the first in a series of essays from presidential candidates regarding national defense and the role of the National Guard. In Senator Dole's view, the National Guard has served as the foundation of our nation's armed forces since its inception in 1636. "Today the National Guard remains critical to the success of the Total Force and to our ability to fight and win on future battlefields," Senator Dole said. It is clear from his essay that should he become president, Senator Dole would support the inclusion of the Guard in the national defense strategy.

Nation's Governors: Keep Your Guard Up..... 24

Governors from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. last month during the National Governors Association's winter conference. Many of those who have soldiers from the Guard's eight combat divisions took issue with a Pentagon's plan of elimination. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, the chairman of the association, felt so strongly against the plan that he had a resolution drafted in support of the Guard, garnering unanimous approval for it from the governors.

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COVER: The state-of-the-art M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank features a turbine powered engine that is easy to start, quiet, smokeless and provides increased acceleration. Photo courtesy of General Dynamics Land Systems. Emblems of Guard combat divisions targeted for elimination by the Pentagon. Cover by Dennis and Sackett Design.

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